

Abergele Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1966

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Housing and Health Committee 1966-67

Councillor MALDWYN PRITCHARD (Chairman).

Councillor J. T. PARRY (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors

K. G. Bould	P. I. Jones
C. Chadwick	R. Lawton
A. J. Easy	C. R. Little
T. E. Edwards	Mrs. M. Lyons, C.C.
Goronwy Hughes	H. J. Manifold, C.C.
O. A. Hughes	W. G. Peck
Vernon Hughes	W. H. Smith
A. E. Jones	R. E. Williams
D. E. Jones	T. Williams
H. H. Jones	

Staff of the Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

FREDERICK P. PEACH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

Additional Public Health Inspector (From 1st April, 1967) :

DAVID T. OWEN, M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Clerk / Typist : Miss M. Y. WILLIAMS.

The Civic Centre,
Colwyn Bay.

To the Chairman and Members,
Health Committee of Abergele U.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present to you my report on the health of the Urban District of Abergele for the year 1966.

The total number of live births during the year was 164, whilst the number of deaths registered was 175. This is a natural decrease in the population of 11. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1966 is 10,210, an increase of 410 persons over the mid-1965 estimated population. The increased population, therefore, must be due to migrants into the district. In fact a total of 2,010 persons have moved from other areas into Abergele since the middle of 1963.

The birth rate at 27.14 shows an increase over 1965, when it stood at 25.1, whilst the death rate at 8.89 shows a decrease compared with 1965 when it stood at 9.5. The infant mortality rate is low at 6.09. During 1965 the infant mortality rate was 13.1. On the whole the vital statistics, therefore, show a satisfactory trend.

To meet the needs of this increasing population and the additional public health legislation, the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector and full-time Clerk/Typist to the Health Department was timely. I welcome Mr. David Owen and Miss M. Y. Williams to the Department.

The public health problems in a district such as Abergele are many and varied, and already the increased establishment is employed to "full capacity." A significant advantage, however, is in the fact that Abergele is situated in the County Area Health administration in which the Medical Officer of Health has delegated responsibilities for the administration of day to day County Health functions. This means that the District Health Department is supported by the County services without recourse to cumbersome lines of communication between District Office and County Office and other time-consuming procedures, that is, both environmental and personal health services are co-ordinated and directed by your Medical Officer of Health. That this integrated and comprehensive health service as conceived by the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. M. T. Islwyn Jones, and pioneered by my predecessor, Dr. William McKendrick, will be re-duplicated throughout Wales would appear to be a logical development, when the proposed re-organisation of Local Government in Wales takes place.

In my previous report for 1965, I referred to the difficulties in tracing visitors to the numerous holiday caravan sites in the area when there is reason to suspect that such persons may have been exposed to or be actually carrying infectious disease. One such incident of profound significance occurred during the 1966 holiday season. A report was received from my contemporary in a Lancashire town that a certain family was visiting " a caravan site " in the Abergele district and that this unprotected family had been exposed to a serious infectious disease. To trace this family proved a formidable operation in that three whole days were spent by the officers of the Health Department, with the co-operation of the Police, in attempting to find this family, who could have been staying in one of over 7,000 caravans and chalets. The fact that no register of occupants was kept by other than a minority of the holiday camps made this task virtually impossible and it was only by an entirely fortuitous set of circumstances that the family was eventually traced. In this instance I am pleased to say that the individuals concerned did not show any overt signs of infection, but had they exhibited the disease suspected the consequences could have been very grave. The proposal now formulated by the Abergele Council that all visitors to caravan and chalet sites be registered is, I am convinced, a major step forward in the control of infectious disease in the area and the preservation of the public health.

The present seemingly inadequate legislation to control tented camping sites also causes the officers of the Health Department some concern. It is to be hoped that the representations which have been made by the Authorities in North Wales concerned will result in more adequate measures being formulated by the Central Government to enable local authorities to adequately control what is becoming an increasing problem.

I express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Health Committee for your guidance and help during the year. I am also grateful to Mr. Frank Evans and Mr. Owen, my fellow officials, and all officers of the Abergele Urban District Council for their service and support to myself and the Health Department.

Yours sincerely,

F. P. PEACH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics

Area (in acres) of Urban District	7963
Population—	
Census (1951)	7539
Census (1961)	7996
Registrar-General's Estimate (mid-1966)	10210
Number of Inhabited Houses	3891
Rateable value	£456,661
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,900
House built by the Council in 1966	8
House built by private enterprise in 1966	208

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Male	Female	Total
Total	81	83	164
Legitimate	72	77	149
Illegitimate	9	6	15
STILL-BIRTHS	2	3	5

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 year)—

Total	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATH OF INFANTS (under 4 weeks)—

Total	1	0	1
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATHS OF INFANTS (under 1 week) ...	1	0	1
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DEATHS	88	87	175
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RATES—

Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)—

(a) Crude	16.06
(b) Corrected	27.14
Comparability figure for births	1.69
Illegitimate Birth Rate (per cent of live births)	9.1
Still-birth rate (per 1,000 total births and still-births) ...	29.5

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births) —

Total	6.09
Legitimate	6.7
Illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 birth)	6.09
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 births)	6.09
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & still-births)	35.5
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil

Death Rate—

(a) Crude	17.1
(b) Corrected	8.89
Comparability factor for deaths	0.52

The following table shows the vital statistics for the past eight years :

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Population	7490	7630	7920	7930	8200	9000	9800	10210
Births	107	118	104	136	130	141	152	164
Birth Rate	14.2	15.4	13.3	17.1	15.4	15.6	15.5	16.06
Still-births	2	1	4	2	3	1	Nil	5
Still-birth rate	0.25	0.12	*37	15.2	22.5	7.1	Nil	29.5
Infant Deaths	2	1	3	5	3	3	2	2
Infant Mortality Rate	18.7	8.4	28.8	36.7	23	21.2	13.1	6.09
Deaths	144	116	114	143	145	149	173	175
Death Rate	15.5	16.9	14.4	18.0	17.8	16.6	17.6	17.1

*Calculated as still-births per 1,000 births and still-births.

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Years	Male	Female	Total
0—1	1	0	1
1—4	0	0	0
5—9	0	0	0
10—14	0	0	0
15—24	0	0	0
25—34	2	0	2
35—44	2	1	3
45—54	5	3	8
55—64	12	10	22
Over 65	76	73	149
	98	87	185

The causes of death at different periods of life were :—

[illegible]

Of the causes of death, the largest number for a single specific cause was due to coronary artery disease, from which 51 persons from the district died during the year. In all, diseases of the cardiovascular system, that is of the heart and blood vessels, accounted for a total of 105 persons, that is over three-quarters of the total number of deaths. The second largest group causing death was malignant disease, from which 42 persons died. Of these 13 persons died from cancer of the lung. During 1965 there were 8 deaths from this disease and the trend is for cancer of the lung to claim an increasing number of victims each year. This is the more unfortunate due to the fact that cancer of the lung is almost a "preventable disease" if only people would refrain from smoking cigarettes, yet despite the mass of indisputable evidence connecting cigarette smoking with cancer of the lung and the information the public have received via press, radio and television informing them of the dangers of cigarette smoking, the consumption of tobacco, like the number of deaths from carcinoma of the lung, rises each year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. BACTERIAL :

I express my thanks to Dr. Kingsley Smith and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, for their assistance during the year. The co-operation between the District Health Department and the Public Health Laboratory has remained excellent, as in past years.

The following prophylactic and therapeutic agents are available through the Public Health Laboratory Service :—

*Smallpox vaccine, lymph and gamma globulin are stocked at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Typhus vaccine, rabies vaccine and anthrax vaccine, for prophylactic use only, are held at the Public Health Laboratory, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (Tel. Royal 3636). Anthrax vaccine for therapeutic use is held at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool (Tel. Aintree 2324) (24-hour service).

Snake anti-venom and Botulinus anti-serum are held at the C. & A. Hospital, Bangor (Tel. Bangor 3321) (24-hour service).

Anti-yellow fever vaccine is obtainable at the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Hatton Gardens, Liverpool (Tel. Central 8433), and inoculations are given by appointment only.

Anti-cholera, anti-tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough vaccines must be obtained through the usual trade channels.

Anti-vaccine for tropical snakes is held only at the Dispensary, Royal South Hants., and Southampton Hospital, Southampton (Tel. Southampton 26211) (24-hour service).

It may be noted that the issue of Gamma Globulin has increased considerably. Women who in the first three months of pregnancy develop German Measles tend to have gravely deformed babies. Should any woman in the early months of pregnancy be exposed to German Measles she should report this to her doctor who may feel it wise to inject Gamma Globulin as a preventative.

*As from 12th June, 1967, Smallpox Lymph is only obtainable from the Health Department, Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay (Tel. 55271).

2. PATHOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL :

Doctors send specimens to the Pathological Department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl. Thus they get help in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

3. WATER :

(a) *Bacteriological* :

During the year 33 water samples were taken by the Public Health Inspector and submitted for bacteriological examination. Such samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination to ensure that the water is free from dangerous organisms. Three of the samples taken were not considered to be entirely satisfactory and these were investigated by the Public Health Inspector. Subsequent samples showed the water to be satisfactory.

(b) *Chemical* :

This test is made to find if there are chemical contaminants in the water or oxidised materials. They give valuable information as to the type of water, the gathering ground, the state of the water mains, plumbo-solvency, etc.

4. MILK AND OTHER FOODS :

(a) *Keeping Quality* :

The state of the milk before it reaches the processing plants is tested by the County Public Health Officer.

I am more interested in the state of the milk when it reaches the housewife. Milk received by consumers is sampled periodically at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(b) *Contamination* :

The Food and Drugs Inspector to the Denbigh County Council takes samples of milk and has them tested for adulteration.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS :

I am indebted to Mr. D. Hugh Owens, Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for Denbighshire, for the following report :

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, in ABERGELE URBAN DISTRICT, during the year ended 31st December, 1966 :—

Article	No. taken	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-standard
MILK	24	24	—
Butter	2	2	—
Bread	1	1	—
Tinned Beans	1	1	—
Luncheon Meat	1	1	—
Meat Pies	1	1	—
Sausages	1	1	—
Ice Cream	4	4	—
Soft Drinks	1	1	—
Beer	1	1	—
Totals	37	37	—

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter. In addition to the usual test for quality, all " farm-bottled " milk is tested for the presence of antibiotics. During the year under review each sample tested gave a negative result.

(Signed) D. HUGH OWENS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,
Wrexham.

24th April, 1967.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service in the area is administered by the Denbighshire County Council and is carried out by three professional staff and the Abergele Voluntary Ambulance Corps. During the year there has been a slight change in the cover provided by the Voluntary Corps. The professional staff are now responsible for dealing with the majority of cases after midnight. This was necessary to meet the demand and the fact that the Voluntary Corps could not provide adequate cover for the required periods.

During the year 3,973 patients were carried by Ambulances and sitting case cars from the Abergele area. This is an increase of 607 on last year and the increase was due to the increased population and more patients receiving specialised treatment in Manchester and Liverpool hospitals, which also accounts for the increase in mileage of 3,556, making a total of 33,701 miles travelled during the year. It is also noticeable that more orthopaedic patients are being trans-

ferred from the War Memorial Hospital, Rhyl, to the Abergele Hospital for surgery, and there were more transfers during the year of chest patients from Abergele Hospital to Broadgreen, Liverpool.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Two District Nurses reside in the area and attend on and treat sick persons at the request of the family doctor.

Home Helps are provided by the County Council to assist in domestic work during periods of emergency when there is sickness in the home. Applications for the assistance of a Home Help should be sent to the office of the Medical Officer of Health, Civic Centre, Colwyn Bay.

CLINICS :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :—

1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele, THURSDAY at 2 p.m. each week.

Beulah Schoolroom, Llanddulas : FIRST MONDAY each month at 2 p.m.

Merchandise Hall, Kinmel Bay : FIRST WEDNESDAY in each month at 2 p.m.

2. ORTHOPAEDIC :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road : Alternate THURSDAYS at 11 a.m.

3. OPHTHALMIC :

As required : appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Nant-y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay.

4. Dental :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Abergele.

5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic) : Fridays, 9 a.m. until noon—Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Rhyl (refill clinic) : Fridays, 2 p.m. at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

Colwyn Bay : At the West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road, 1st and 3rd Thursday at 2 p.m.

DAY NURSERIES :

There are no day nurseries in the area.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The state of the Register at the beginning and end of the year was as follows :

On Register 1-1-66		On Register 30-12-66	
Pulmonary—		Pulmonary—	
Male	28	Male	24
Female	16	Female	18
Non-Pulmonary—		Non-Pulmonary—	
Male	1	Male	1
Female	3	Female	3
<hr/>		<hr/>	
48		46	
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases notified to me during 1966 :—

Cases	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over
Pulmonary T.B.	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	20	1	12	7	—	—	—	—
Measles	140	8	84	45	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	168	9	97	53	3	2	2	2

IMMUNISATION.

(a) *Smallpox* :

During the year a total of 104 persons received primary vaccination against smallpox and 6 persons were re-vaccinated. The number of primary vaccinations shows an increase compared with 1965, when a total of 89 persons received protection against smallpox.

During the past five years the number of persons, mainly infants, receiving primary vaccination has shown an upward trend. This is gratifying and further indicates that the policy of vaccinating children in the second year of life, instead of at three months of age, has led to a greater acceptance rate. Vaccination at this period of life between the ages of 1 and 2 years is a relatively safe procedure and very few adverse reactions to the vaccine are manifest. Subse-

quent re-vaccination in later life in previously vaccinated persons is also relatively free from complications, but if vaccination is not performed in infancy, primary vaccination in an adult is not without some element of risk. The sporadic outbreaks of smallpox which have been occurring in England and Wales during the past few years, due to the greater ease of travel and immigrants into the country, may necessitate on occasions a relatively large number of persons being vaccinated as an emergency measure.

(b) *Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough)* :

144 children received a primary course of triple antigen during the year. This is an increase over 1965, when 120 children received a primary course of this agent. 37 children received booster doses. In addition, 6 children received a course of combined diphtheria and tetanus prophylactic. These were older children who had not previously received the triple antigen containing the whooping cough agent.

(c) *Poliomyelitis* :

180 persons received a primary course of anti-poliomyelitis vaccine, whilst 167 booster doses were given. In all cases oral vaccine was used.

(d) *B.C.G.* :

All schoolchildren at 13 years of age are offered B.C.G. vaccine, but first a skin test is carried out to see whether or not each child has resistance to tuberculosis. A positive reaction to the skin test indicates that at some period a person has been exposed to tuberculosis but is not necessarily suffering from the disease. In the case of a negative reaction to the skin test, B.C.G. is offered, which when performed gives a substantial protection against the child contracting the disease at a vulnerable age.

During the year 95 pupils were skin tested, of which 75 were found to give a negative reaction. All of these children were vaccinated with B.C.G. In the case of the 20 children who gave a positive reaction to the skin test, a full investigation was carried out to ascertain why a positive reaction occurred.

WATER :

I am indebted to Mr. J. Round, Engineer and Manager to the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board at Rhyl, for the following report on the water supplied to the area :

Abergele Supply (except Llanddulas) :

The Urban District, except Llanddulas, is supplied from the works which formerly belonged to Rhyl U.D.C. The direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average rainfall of 30.27 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—

Plas Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen (48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather, an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir, and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for pH correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

The annual rainfall on the Llanefydd gathering ground was 35.68 inches in 1966 compared with the long term average of 30.27 inches.

Consumption of water in Abergele (except Llanddulas) during 1966 (estimated)

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption
January	13,866,000 gallons	447,000 gallons
February	12,686,000 gallons	453,000 gallons
March	13,941,000 gallons	450,000 gallons
April	13,168,000 gallons	440,000 gallons
May	14,645,000 gallons	472,000 gallons
June	15,691,000 gallons	522,000 gallons
July	17,246,000 gallons	556,000 gallons
August	17,625,000 gallons	569,000 gallons
September	14,777,000 gallons	492,000 gallons
October	13,392,000 gallons	432,000 gallons
November	12,676,000 gallons	422,000 gallons
December	12,683,000 gallons	408,000 gallons
Year's Total	172,396,000 gallons	

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water :

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway	76
Number returned as Class I (Satisfactory)	72
Number spoilt at Public Health Laboratory	2

The following chemical analysis was made by Ruddock & Sherratt, Chester, in August, 1966 :

Appearance	Clear and Colourless
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	7.2
	<i>parts per million</i>
Total solids	174
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.015
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.00
Chlorides, as Cl	17
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.0
Total hardness	55
Temporary hardness	46
Permanent hardness	9
Alkalinity	46
Free Chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	—
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	less than 0.025
Cyanides and thiocyanates	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil

Opinion : The condition of this sample is satisfactory.

Llanddulas Supply :

Llanddulas is supplied from works formerly belonging to Abergele Urban District Council. The source of supply is a small impounding reservoir Glyn Lws (capacity 2.5 million gallons). The water is treated by sludge blanket sedimentation, pressure filtration, pH correction and chlorination. The source of supply is unreliable and additional supplies have to be brought into Llanddulas from other sources in dry weather. The treatment plant is complex and requires excessive supervision and maintenance in relation to its output. This supply is being replaced by a permanent supply from the Llyn Conwy Regional Water Supply Scheme. It was hoped to have this in operation by the summer, but difficulties in obtaining the special high pressure pipes have caused delays. The main should be in operation in August, 1967.

Water supplied to Llanddulas from Glyn Lws :

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption
January	1,494,000 gallons	48,000 gallons
February	1,326,000 gallons	47,000 gallons
March	1,523,000 gallons	49,000 gallons
April	1,562,000 gallons	52,000 gallons
May	1,555,000 gallons	50,000 gallons
June	1,613,000 gallons	54,000 gallons
July	1,663,000 gallons	54,000 gallons
August	1,588,000 gallons	51,000 gallons
September	1,420,000 gallons	47,000 gallons
October	1,496,000 gallons	48,000 gallons
November	1,336,000 gallons	45,000 gallons
December	1,383,000 gallons	45,000 gallons

Year's Total 17,959,000 gallons

The following chemical analysis was made by Ruddock & Sherratt, Chester, in January, 1966 (Raw Water) :—

Appearance	Colourless, slight deposit (of grit or sand)
Odour	Nil
Reaction, pH	6.6
	<i>parts per million</i>
Total solids	76
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.02
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.005
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5
Chlorides, as Cl	21
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C ...	1.5
Total hardness	50
Temporary hardness	20
Permanent hardness	30
Alkalinity	50
Free Chlorine	Nil
Potassium, as K	—
Anionic synthetic detergents	—
Manganese, as Mn	less than 0.05
Cyanides and thiocyanates	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil

Opinion : The condition of this sample is satisfactory.

New Works :

Approximately 2½ miles of 8in. main have been laid to enable Llanddulas to be supplied shortly from Llyn Conwy, and major works are proposed to provide additional water from Glascoed Filter Station. This is necessary to meet the future needs of Abergele, Rhyl and Prestatyn.

(Signed) J. ROUND,
Engineer and Manager.

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1966

Table I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

No. of complaints received and attended to	145
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances	483
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances	247
No. of nuisances abated	85
No. of nuisances not abated, but work in hand	27
No. of Informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance	85
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisance	1
No. of Visits re Caravan Sites	477
No. of Visits re Tenting Sites	73
No. of Inquiries re Infectious Diseases	72
No. of Visits to Slaughterhouse	525
No. of Visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ...	130
No. of Visits re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act ...	46
No. of Samples taken of Ice Cream	35
No. of Milk Samples	16
No. of Water Samples taken	33
No. of Visits re Rodent Control	49
No. of Inspections of Factories	21
No. of Miscellaneous Visits	248
No. of Interviews	663
No. of Visits re Shops Act	33
No. of Visits re Council House Tenancies	42

Table II.

SANITARY DEFECTS.

No. of defective or choked drains	51
No. of defective W.C. Accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	13
No. of defects in surface water drainage	24
No. of damp conditions of houses	7
No. of miscellaneous defects	50

Table III.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwellings during the year :	
(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	44
(b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	22
2.—Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence Informal Action	16
3.—Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices Public Health Act, 1936, were served	Nil
4.—Demolition as a result of Informal Action :	
Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the owners	Nil
5.—Number of Demolition Orders made as a result of Formal Action	2
6.—Number of houses closed as a result of Formal Action ...	4
7.—Number of houses closed as a result of Informal Action	3
8.—Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Rent Act, 1957 (Form J)	Nil
9.—Number of improvement grants made under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 :	
(a) Discretionary	8
(b) Standard	3

Housing

The continued high rate of building of houses and bungalows by private enterprise does not appear to have any effect in reducing the number of applicants for Council houses. During the year two hundred and eight houses and bungalows were completed in addition to a small number on the Council's Peel Street estate. In July there were three hundred and fifty-two applicants for Council houses on the register. By the end of the year twenty-two families had been accommodated, and seven others had themselves found accommodation. In spite of this reduction of twenty-nine, on the 31st December there were three hundred and seventy-one housing applicants on the register giving an overall increase of nineteen. The number is still continuing to increase, application being submitted by persons living locally and also by persons living in places considerably distant from Abergele, and at the time of writing this report the total is in excess of four hundred.

Considerable time is taken in interviews with housing applicants. When there is a change of tenancy or when a new house is let, the necessary visits and interviews again take up a lot of time. The selection of tenants often imposes a very difficult task for the Selection Committees. Exchanges of tenancies involving tenants on different Council estates are agreed to providing our investigations show conditions to be satisfactory. Every effort is made to accommodate elderly persons living in three-bedroomed Council houses who wish to move into bungalows and so make houses available for families with children. Similarly every effort is made to accommodate persons, who have to be displaced from houses which are being demolished, in houses of their choice.

The Council's Peel Street housing scheme is nearing completion. The scheme at Llanddulas is expected to be commenced at an early date. A small scheme to extend the Min-y-Morfa Estate at Towyn is now proceeding. At Bodtegwel, and at Rhydyfoel, the preparation of small schemes is well advanced. Future proposals for the Abergele town area are at present in the stage of investigation, as a site will need to be acquired for the purpose.

The provision of housing accommodation in Peel Street has enabled effect to be given to the Chapel Street, Pensarn, clearance area. The ten houses have now all been vacated and demolition and clearance of the site can proceed.

The completion of the Towyn housing scheme will enable a small number of residents in a terrace of unfit houses in Towyn to be re-housed, when the owner will then give effect to his undertaking to demolish the houses.

In the design of housing schemes, the provision of elderly persons bungalows should be on a generous scale. The number of applicants for this type of accommodation is in excess of one hundred.

Progress continued during the year with the problems of unfit houses, nine individually unfit houses being dealt with by Closing Orders or Demolition Orders in addition to the Clearance Area in Pensarn. There are no areas of houses which now require clearance. There are, of course, a number of individual houses, or very small groups of houses, which may with advantage be dealt with when alternative housing accommodation can be provided. The number of families involved is such that they can be housed in one or other of the various estates which are being provided for general needs.

The repair of tenanted houses has again proved to be difficult. There appears to be a scarcity of contractors who are interested in this type of work.

The modernisation of houses with the aid of improvement grants is encouraged and during the year eight " Discretionary " and three " Standard " Grants were made. The conversion of the older and larger types of houses into self-contained flats, while it may be the most advantageous way of using the accommodation which is available often proves to be more expensive than anticipated and maximum grants may be considerably less than fifty per cent. of the total cost.

The number of houses in " multiple occupation," that is in occupation by several families sharing some domestic accommodation is not large but our attention is being given to this problem.

The housing of the so-called " problem families " is a subject which can suddenly arise. Representation on the Families Committee of the County Council has proved beneficial, and schemes of co-operation by the Council and the County Council are designed to deal with this aspect of the housing problem.

Holiday Caravan Sites

The control of caravan sites is achieved by using the powers given in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. Site licences, with Conditions, are issued to all site proprietors who are entitled to such licences by virtue of being in benefit of planning permission for the use of their land for the stationing of caravans for habitation purposes. During the year 1966 no new site licences were issued. The following table shows the distribution of the sites in the various wards in the area :—

Ward	No. of Sites	No. of Caravans and Chalets
Towyn	42	5222
Llanddulas	6	708
Pensarn	8	546
Gele	5	105
Pentre Mawr	1	115
Kinmel Bay	6	602
St. George	Nil	Nil
Total	68	7298

In three cases the Council agreed to the transfer of site licences in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Act.

In four cases applications were received for the amendment of the site licences so as to authorise additional caravans. In one case the use of adjoining land was considered by the Planning Authority to be land "used in conjunction" with the area already licensed for caravans. This decision resulted in the site licence being amended so as to authorise forty-nine additional caravans. In a second case, two additional caravans were authorised. The third case related to a request to increase the number of caravans from one hundred and ten to one hundred and thirty-nine. As this would have resulted in a major re-planning of the site lay-out which was considered to be undesirable, this application was refused. A further approach was then made to increase the number of caravans by five only and this was approved. The fourth case related to an application to increase the number of caravans on a small site from five to seven. This application was refused by the Council. An appeal to the Court was made out this was withdrawn, showing clearly that the Council's decision had been justified.

In four cases inquiries were held into planning appeals.

One case was concerned with a site in Llanddulas which was being severed into two pieces and reduced in area on account of the construction of the Abergele By-pass road. The site proprietor's application to use adjoining land on the north side of the new roadway and to give up the detached portion situated on the south side of the roadway was refused by the local planning authority, but was allowed, on appeal, by the Secretary of State for Wales.

A second case related to an area of land in Towyn which was situated outside the camping zones. This appeal was dismissed.

In a third case the appellant sought permission to use land on the north side of the main railway line in Towyn. There was pedestrian access via a footbridge, but the only vehicular access was via a crossing, the gates to which were kept locked by the Railway Authority, who had agreed to admit caravans over the track when

they were being first sited on the land, but who would not permit the passage of private cars. In view of the peculiar factors affecting this land it was somewhat of a surprise when the appeal was allowed.

The fourth case was a rather unusual one. The appeal was against an enforcement notice which required the discontinuance of the use of the land for a caravan used for residential purposes. The evidence at the hearing was described as " conflicting " and the appeal was allowed as it was held that the use had continued for more than four years. In allowing the appeal the Secretary of State for Wales at the same time decided that planning permission would not be given. In the absence of a planning permission the continued use of land as a caravan site, without the occupier being the holder of a site licence, which under the circumstances the Council could not grant, constituted an offence against the 1960 Act and consideration is being given to the institution of proceedings in the local court.

Contravention of the provisions of the Act are usually either by use of unlicensed land or by breach of site licence conditions. During the summer season observations were kept particularly on two unauthorised sites, and in one of these cases proceedings in the local court are pending. In the other case the unauthorised use was discontinued. In a small number of cases minor contraventions of licence conditions were observed. These related to the accommodation of caravans in excess of the maximum number permitted by the site licences, and were accounted for mainly by the presence of touring caravans. The site licence holders have been warned that the conditions attached to their site licences must be strictly observed.

Generally speaking the licensed caravan sites are fully occupied with static holiday caravans and there is very little accommodation available for touring caravans. The use of unauthorised sites for touring caravans continued during the peak holiday season to present problems.

During the summer a survey of all sites used for caravans was carried out in conjunction with an Officer of the County Planning Department. This showed the presence in an area of a total of six thousand three hundred and seventy-nine caravans and one thousand three hundred and sixty-four chalets. This total was about four hundred in excess of the total authorised by site licences issued under the provisions of the 1960 Act.

The sites surveyed might be conveniently grouped as follows :

(a) Licensed Caravan Sites	68
(b) Authorised Chalet Sites	8
(c) Tented Camping Sites	16
(d) Unlicensed Caravan Sites	8
(e) " Garden Sites "	173
(f) Railway Camping Coach Sites	1

The " authorised chalet sites " are those established with planning permission. The chalets are of permanent construction and comply with the requirements of Building Bye-laws or Regulations. These are not controlled by the 1960 Act.

The small group under the heading "Unlicensed Caravan Sites" includes those sites where the caravan use does not contravene the limitations contained in the second and third conditions of exemption listed in the First Schedule to the Act.

The siting of caravans on land "within the curtilage of a dwelling house" has for some considerable period of time presented a caravan use which has been impracticable to control. The survey showed the extent of this problem by revealing that at one hundred and seventy-three garden sites, there were one hundred and ninety-six caravans and sixty-eight chalets.

The First Schedule to the 1960 Act contains an exemption from licence control in the following terms :—

" A site licence shall not be required for the use of land as a caravan site if the use is incidental to the enjoyment as such of a dwelling house within the curtilage of which the land is situated." I have read Counsel's opinions on the interpretation of this exemption which are flatly contradictory. I am also aware that Ministerial decisions and Magisterial rulings also appear to conflict. The Council is very concerned with this problem, the size of which appears to continually increase, and the assistance of the Urban District Councils' Association is being sought.

The extent and distribution of holiday caravan sites in our area are features which have become accepted by the residents and which are known to many persons in widely separated areas of England and Wales.

The camping activities in the area commenced about forty years ago, in one form or another and became firmly established to a considerable degree before there were any powers of control. When legal provisions became applicable existing uses and rights were, to a large measure, protected.

There is no doubt in my mind that the activity would be on a much greater scale if it was not for the considerable efforts made by the Officers of the local Council and the Planning Authority. It can be disappointing when these efforts do not receive the support of the Central Government.

Although the Planning Authority has allocated a generous area of land for use as caravan sites, the demand is not satisfied. As far as I am aware all our licensed sites are fully occupied, and all the land in the holiday camping zones is in full use for that purpose.

The very small number of complaints received is an indication of the generally high standard of management which is exercised by the site proprietors. During the summer one serious problem of control arose which gave rise to much concern. This related to the control of infectious diseases and was the subject of a report to the Council by the Medical Officer of Health.

Tented Camping Sites

Observations made during the holiday season showed that about seventy acres of land are used for comparatively short periods for tented camping, with a probable maximum of about fifteen hundred tents.

One site is subject to the control which is imposed by the conditions on the site licence issued under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

A number of sites are used annually by organised parties, such as Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and Church Choirboys. These camps are invariably well conducted and need no control or supervision by the local authority.

The standards achieved at the various sites used regularly for tented camping by individuals and family parties can vary considerably. Complaints regarding such sites usually relate to overcrowding, litter, inadequate water supply points and nuisance from waste water disposal. Sometimes complaints relate merely to the effect of tented camping on visual amenity.

The Council is aware that there are no adequate powers of control over holiday camping in tents. The problem is not merely local, but it is very widespread.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have received numerous representations on the subject, and on the 6th October, 1966, a meeting was held at their London Office, which I attended as a representative of the Urban District Councils' Association. Representatives were also present from the Rural District Councils' Association, the County Councils' Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations. The Welsh Office and the Scottish Development Department were also represented. All aspects of the problem were freely and fully discussed, and the Ministry representatives were fully appreciative of the difficulties attaching to the subject.

In December, 1966, and again in April, 1967, the Ministry communicated with the Secretaries of the various local authority Associations. Consideration is still being given to the revision of the model bye-laws. The Ministry have also given an assurance that they will consider making " Directions " under Article 4 of the Town and

Country Planning General Development Order, 1963, aimed at protecting areas of particular amenity value from being spoiled by excessive tented camping. If a particular direction covered a large area the local planning authority would be expected to show that there were reasonable facilities either in the area or nearby so that people would not be completely deprived of opportunity to enjoy those special amenities merely by lack of facilities for camping.

It is known that other authorities in North Wales are now making representations to the Ministry for powers of control over tented camping similar to those contained in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. We must remain hopeful that the Ministry will be able to provide appropriate means of control. Not all our tented camping sites cause concern. We do not need new legislation for sites which are well conducted, but we would wish for effective powers to deal with those which are not.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Under this heading must be considered the facilities for the disposal of foul drainage and surface water drainage from properties and also because of the physical character of our area the adequacy of land drainage schemes is of vital importance. No single aspect of the problem can be dealt with in isolation.

The rapid development of large new residential estates has created problems not only in connection with the adequacy of the Council's sewerage system. Systems of sewage disposal which have operated without nuisance in sparsely developed areas can be suddenly rendered inoperative. Negotiations to solve these problems have taken place with the estate developers, the owners and agents of existing properties in company with members of the Surveyor's Staff and ourselves.

It is necessary in much of our area to adopt the "separate" system of sewerage. Under these circumstances special care must be taken with connections from property drains to main drains and sewers. A nuisance was created in the Towyn area by the mistaken connection of a drain conveying waste water from a cafe into a surface water drain which discharged finally into a watercourse.

It is also sometimes necessary in our area to lay sewers and drains with a minimal fall. This demands a high standard of workmanship if troubles due to blockages are to be avoided, and with the modern trend of sub-contracting supervision becomes increasingly difficult.

The preparation of the sewerage scheme for Llanddulas and Rhydyfoel is so far advanced that works should be commenced during 1967. Consideration has been given to the practicability of

extending sewerage facilities to the areas of large-scale caravan and chalet development at Beach House and Tan-yr-Ogof. Such provision would enable the installation of modern systems of sanitation at these sites. The need to provide public sanitary conveniences at suitable points frequented by the considerable numbers of holiday visitors can now be investigated.

At the eastern end of the Urban area as development continues the need for the extension of sewerage facilities becomes increasingly urgent, and we look forward to the early implementation of the River Authority's scheme which must precede the provision of sewers.

The continuing residential development in the Llanfair Road area may provide the opportunity to discontinue the use of a number of septic tanks and cesspools. Preliminary investigations are in hand into the practicability of providing main services in the village of St. George.

Rodent Control

It is economically sound and it is essential in the interests of Public Health to maintain the area as free from rats and mice as is practicable. Signs of rodent infestation should be notified so that prompt steps to eradicate can be taken. Our duties under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage of Pests Act 1949 are carried out by a trained operator who is employed jointly on a full-time basis by the Aled, St. Asaph and Abergele Councils.

The sewers throughout the area, the refuse tip, and any other Council properties, are treated regularly. Treatments are carried out at residential, business and agricultural premises. The operator, who is conscientious in carrying out his duties, is also called upon to deal with complaints of infestations by other pests.

Factories

The statutory return, which is made in accordance with the provisions of the Factories Act 1961, is included in this report.

Shops Act

The provisions in the Shops Act 1950 relating to closing hours, or to the times at which various commodities and articles may lawfully be sold remain highly complex. In an area frequented as a holiday resort enforcement is more than a problem.

The Council have made Orders relating to Sunday trading during the holiday season. During the 1966 holiday season it was found that there were comparatively minor contraventions of the provisions relating to the hours of opening of certain shops, but it was not considered to be necessary to institute proceedings.

Factories Acts, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1966 for the
Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	15	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	—	—	—
Total	36	21	—	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	(6)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Four persons were on the Register of Outworkers.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Under the provisions of this Act a report must be made annually to the Ministry of Labour in addition to a quarterly return relating to accidents.

The annual report for 1966 is in the following form :

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during 1966	Total number of Registered Premises	Persons Employed
Offices	11	37	194
Retail Shops	6	78	248
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	3	29
Catering Establishments & Canteens	1	13	163
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	2
Totals	19	133	640

Of the total of 640 persons employed, 267 were male and 373 female.

A number of surveys have been made as required by the Act, It is intended that during 1967 more time will be able to be given to this important duty.

No undue difficulties have so far been encountered in enforcing the provisions of the Act, but the following contraventions were noted :

Number of Premises Inspected for the year 1966

Offices	2
Shops	13
Wholesale	2
Catering	2
Fuel	Nil

Defects Found

Cleanliness	—
Overcrowding	—
Temperature	—
Thermometer	6
Ventilation	—
Lighting	—
Sanitary Conveniences	3
Washing Facilities	3
Drinking Water	—

Accommodation for Clothing	—
Seating Accommodation	—
Abstract	5
First Aid	7
Number of Warning Letters	11
Dangerous Machines	3
Staircase and Floor	1
	—
	15
	—

Food Inspection

The routine inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption makes a substantial demand on our time. Some inspection duties have to be carried out outside normal office hours. Eleven thousand two hundred and fourteen animals were dealt with during the year and this shows a small increase over the total for 1965.

As shown by the table (see Pages 31 and 32) the quantity of meat which was found to be diseased was very small. Parasitic conditions in the liver accounted for practically all condemnations connected with beef. In sheep the commonest cause of condemnation was multiple injuries, while localised tuberculosis, usually of avian origin, was responsible for the major part of the small amount of pork which was condemned. Immaturity and injuries were the two causes of condemnation of calf carcasses.

During the year the ready assistance and co-operation of the slaughterhouse employees was invariably available.

As a matter of routine, public water supplies are sampled regularly and examined for bacteriological purity. During the year twelve samples from the Rhyl supply and twenty from the Glyn Lws supply were collected. In three cases only, the samples just failed to reach the highest standard of bacteriological purity. In the Llandulas area the water from Glyn Lws again gave rise to complaints of brown staining on washed articles of clothing and bedding. This was found to be due to the presence in the water of rust and manganese. Every practicable action was taken by the Engineer to the Water Board to reduce this trouble to a minimum, but it is hoped that the connection to the supply from Llyn Conwy will be made during the summer of 1967 and that this complaint will be eliminated.

One sample of water was taken from an outdoor swimming pool at a Holiday Centre and this was found to be sterile.

Sixteen samples of milk, as supplied to the consumer, were collected and submitted for the prescribed statutory tests. Four failed to satisfy the tests and the Authority responsible for the issue

of the milk licences was notified. Six of the samples were submitted for biological tests but none showed any evidence of Tuberculosis or Brucellosis.

Thirty-five samples of ice cream were collected. In those cases where the results of the bacteriological examination were not satisfactory investigations were made into the methods of manufacture and handling.

General Observations

In submitting this report the opportunity has been taken to discuss under a number of main headings the subject matters to which the statistics given in the three tables relate. In this respect the report follows the usual pattern. In some respects however the duties carried out did not.

The continuing rapid development of the district was one of the main considerations which resulted in the Council implementing a system of re-organisation.

At the beginning of the financial year, an Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. David T. Owen, commenced duties, and Miss M. Y. Williams, a Clerk/Typist, was also engaged. In company with the Surveyor's Department we became accommodated in Pentre Mawr House at the rear of the main Office building.

Over the past few years, the continued spate of new legislation has imposed new and additional duties on Public Health Inspectors. This, combined with the problems connected with the rapid development which is continuing, has resulted in the necessity to appoint an additional inspector in order to achieve a desirable standard of inspection in matters relating to environmental hygiene. Mr. Owen has proved to be an efficient and industrious colleague, and it is essential that as much of our time as possible is given to the specialised duties for which we are trained. We must, of course, work in close co-operation with the other Officers of the Council, as in many spheres of the Council's activities and responsibilities this is both desirable and essential in the interests of attaining sound and efficient administration.

Details of Meat Condemned at the Abattoir

BEEF :

(a) Complete carcasses : Nil.

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

60 Oxen — Non-Tubercular Diseases 738 lbs.

PORK :

(a) Complete carcasses : Nil.

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :

20 parts — Localised Tuberculosis 200 lbs.

19 parts — Other diseases 74 lbs.

VEAL :

2 Complete Calf Carcases (Non-Tubercular Disease) 84 lbs.

MUTTON AND LAMB :

5 Complete Sheep Carcases 157 lbs.

30 Part Carcase 63 lbs.
(Non-Tubercular Disease)

TOTAL WEIGHTS CONDEMNED : 11 cwts. 3 qrs.

Other Foods Condemned

Canned Fish 8 lbs.

Canned Fruit 44 lbs.

Canned Vegetables 878 lbs.

Canned Milk 32 lbs.

Canned Meat 386 lbs.

Canned Soup 123 lbs.

Canned Puddings 217 lbs.

Frozen Foods 56 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	661	—	11	8,797	1,745	
Number inspected	661	—	11	8,797	1,745	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	2	5	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	58	—	—	30	19	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.8%	—	18%	0.4%	1.1%	
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	20	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.1%	
Cysticercosis—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	

